Telephone Connectivity, 66822 villages that remain to be covered are to be provided connectivity. Under Irrigation, 100 lakh ha. of additional irrigation capacity to be created by 2009. Under Rural Housing, 60 lakh houses are to be constructed for the rural poor by 2009.

Bharat Nirman which is primarily a time bound plan for rural infrastructure will also generate employment directly or indirectly, however, no specific estimates are available in this regard. The implementation of all the components of Bharat Nirman is regularly reviewed/monitored by the respective Ministries, Planning Commission and in the PMO. The progress of the implementation of all components of Bharat Nirman is web hosted in the website *www.bharatnirman.gov.in*.

Projects under REGA

1780. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the project of Rural Employment Guarantee Programme under REGA pertain to earth-works;

(b) whether the projects like small and village industries needs to be emphasized for work under REGA for providing work to the rural artisans, in addition to the projects already in vogue; and

(c) if so, the items suggested and the proportion of man-days in the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Works permissible under the NREG Act include: (i) Water conservation and water harvesting; (ii) Drought proofing, including afforestation and tree plantation; (iii) Irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works; (iv) Irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities on land owned by households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes or to Below Poverty Line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana; (v) renovation of traditional water bodies including desilting of tanks; (vi) land development; (vii) flood control and protection works including drainage in water logged areas; (viii) rural connectivity to provide all-weather access; and (ix) any

other work which may be notified by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government.

(b) and (c) NREGA provides for enhancement of livelihood security to those households whose members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Skilled jobs are not covered under NREGA.

Use of heavy machines for NREG works

1781. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have detected that heavy machines like Proclines and Cranes are used in NREG works, instead of manual labour; and

(b) if so, what steps did Government initiate to curb and prevent such practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Act provides (Schedule 1 paragraph 12) that as far as practicable, a task funded under the scheme shall be performed by using manual labour and not machines. States have been advised to ensure compliance.

New proposal for Darjeeling hilly area under PMGSY

†1782. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any new proposal for Darjeeling hilly areas of West Bengal under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the agencies which have been entrusted with the work of repair under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for hilly areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. No new

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.